



The President's Daily Brief

10 September 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

France is suggesting that the US facilitate Franco-British technical cooperation in the field of nuclear weapons. (*Page 1*)

Chinese representatives say that a small number of US businessmen will definitely be invited to the Canton Trade Fair next month. (*Page 2*)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**FRANCE - UNITED KINGDOM**

A ranking French defense official has suggested that the US facilitate Franco-British technical cooperation in the field of nuclear weapons. He asked that the US remove in stages legal restrictions which prevent the UK from passing certain nuclear information. This would be, he said, "the most useful step" the US could take to improve Western security at this juncture. Earlier the French had asked Washington to ease its restrictions on the release of nuclear information to Paris in order to place France on an equal footing with the UK. The French official rejected for the present the concept of a unified nuclear strike force.

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The French seem to be motivated in part by concern over the prospect of mutual balanced force reductions in Europe. As seen from Paris, MBFR is only a pretext for a drawdown of US forces, after which there would be a "wave of neutralism" in Western Europe and an increase in Soviet influence.

The French initiative may also be designed to tie London more closely to Paris prior to British entry into the European Community. Paris remains undecided concerning how to deal with the "problem" of Germany, but for the present, it has ruled out NATO as a forum for dealing with this matter. In his remarks, the French official hinted that US facilitation of British-French cooperation might bring some changes in this French position.

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NOTE

Communist China - US: A small number of US businessmen will definitely be invited to the Canton Trade Fair next month, according to word passed by Chinese representatives in Hong Kong and Ottawa. One of the Chinese implied that only representatives of small US firms will be welcome. It is not clear whether the businessmen will be allowed to conduct transactions or will attend only as observers.

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